

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00

DHA-02 SCS-03 SCA-01 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

INRE-00 SP-02 PRS-01 PA-01 /063 W

-----095938 271329Z /47

O 271135Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8991

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGUI 1567

FOR FCO FROM PRINCE

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, CT, US, PFOR

SUBJ: DETENTION OF WESTERN JOURNALIST

REF: BANGUI 1555

1. SITREP 26TH. PRINCE AWAITED MINISTER FOREIGN AFFAIRS ALL DAY
TO NO AVAIL, DESPITE REGULAR TELEPHONE CALLS.

2. BY ACCIDENT HE WAS PULLED IN TO ACT AS INTERPRETER AT DINNER
GIVEN BY MINISTER INFORMATION FOR DAILY MAIL JOURNALISTS, WHO
HAD HAD THREE HOURS INTERVIEW WITH EMPEROR. WHEN PRINCE RAISED
SUBJECT OF GOLDSMITH, MINISTER (WHO IS DOCTOR OF LAW) STATED
EMPHATICALLY THAT HE WAS SOUTH AFRICAN, GOLDSMITH HIMSELF HAD
SAID IT. THIS WAS REITERATED THREE TIMES DURING CONVERSATION
WHEN PRINCE REPEATEDLY INSISTED ON GOLDSMITH'S BRITISH NATIONALITY.
QUESTION IF SA PASSPORT SEEN REMAINED UNANSWERED BUT MINISTER
CONTINUALLY POINTED TO ANOTHER TYPE OF NATIONALITY WHICH SOUNDED
LIKE "CRIN MAIN" AND WHICH HE EXPLAINED AS "ON DOIT A DES MAINS
PROPRES". MINISTER THEN DECLINED FURTHER COMMENT ON GROUNDS HE
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WAS NOT MINISTER CONCERNED.

3. LATER EDWARDS IN CAPACITY OF FELLOW JOURNALIST ASKED (THROUGH
PRINCE) WHEN GOLDSMITH WOULD BE RELEASED. MINISTER SAID BEFORE
EDWARDS RETURNED FOR CORONATION ON 4 DECEMBER. WHEN PRINCE
EXPRESSED EXTREME DISMAY AT POSSIBILITY 4 MONTHS IMPRISONMENT
MINISTER SAID "NON, AVANT CA, AVANT CA". PRINCE SAID THAT WAS

NOT A GOOD TIME FOR A FOREIGN JOURNALIST TO BE IMPRISONED IN ECA. HE ALSO DREW ATTENTION TO HIS CONCERN BECAUSE OF GOLDSMITH'S AGE AND CARDIAC CONDITION BUT MINISTER ASSURED EVERYONE HE WAS IN GOOD HEALTH AND THAT EMPEROR WAS A KINDLY MAN: THIS WAS NOT UGANDA. HE DID NOT SAY WHEN HE LAST SAW GOLDSMITH. WHEN EDWARDS THEN ASKED IF HE COULD SEE GOLDSMITH BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE ON THE 28TH, MINISTER SAID THIS WOULD NOT HELP MATTERS. HE THEN DECLINED FURTHER CONVERSATION ON SUBJECT (OTHERWISE DINNER WAS MOST FRIENDLY).

4. IN VIEW ABOVE CONVERSATION AND FACTS THAT EMPEROR AT BERENGO MEETING STATED A. "IL N'EST PAS ANGLAIS", B. GOLDSMITH HAD ADMITTED HE WAS SOUTH AFRICAN, AND C. HE MAY HAVE BEEN BORN ENGLISH BUT HE IS SOUTH AFRICAN, IT APPEARS THAT GOLDSMITH'S ALLEGED SA CITIZENSHIP IS KEY POINT. THIS TIES IN WITH RUMORS (FROM FRENCH AND RUSSIAN DIPLOMATIC SOURCES) ALREADY REPORTED THAT HE IS BEING USED AS PAWN IN ATTEMPT TO EXTRACT MONEY FROM SA. IN THIS CASE, VISIT OF BRITISH REPRESENTATIVE AND HIS INSISTENCE (TO THREE MINISTERS) ON GOLDSMITH'S BRITISH NATIONALITY MAY HAVE BEEN EMBARRASSMENT TO GOCAE.

5. WILL YOU PLEASE OBTAIN CONFIRMATION, IF POSSIBLE BY MORNING OF 28TH, A. FROM SA AUTHORITIES THAT GOLDSMITH IS NOT SA CITIZEN, AND B. FROM WIFE/AP/ANY OTHER SOURCE THAT HE HAS NO SA CONNECTION.

6. IN ABSENCE DEVELOPMENTS TODAY AND TOMORROW AND DEPENDENT ON CONFIDENTIAL

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RESULTS SA RESEARCHES, PRINCE BELIEVES BEST COURSE NOW TO RETURN DOUALA 29TH AFTER WHICH STRONGEST PRESSURE BE BROUGHT TO BEAR FROM OUTSIDE ECA, NOT ONLY DIPLOMATIC BUT ESPECIALLY FROM IMPORTANT PRESS ASSOCIATIONS/UNIONS.

7. EDWARDS OF DAILY MAIL WILL CALL ON WAD 28TH OR 29TH.
SMITH

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DETENTION, REPORTS, JOURNALISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770269-0077
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ISecure: 1
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Line Count: 101
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